

C O P Y

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USSR SAID AIDING DIAMOND SMUGGLERS

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CPYRGHT

(Text) Johannesburg--Captain J. du Plessis, who recently retired from the South African police force, says in an interview published by the Johannesburg SUNDAY EXPRESS today that the Soviet Union is behind a big smuggling organization.

This organization secretly managed to get out of South Africa and the Belgian Congo 400,000 carats of industrial diamonds worth more than 1 million pounds sterling. According to Captain du Plessis, who is considered an expert on diamond smuggling, all the efforts made by the South African authorities to destroy this organization have been unsuccessful. The Soviets, he added, refuse to supply themselves legally in diamonds through the Diamond Corporation of London, and they are willing to pay their South African agents three times the official market price. A Middle Eastern country plays the role of "treasurer" for the organization, which has one of its chief centers at Lourenco Marques, Mozambique.